

# Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) 2003 Performance Data

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) funds community-based outreach, mental health, substance abuse, case management and other support services, as well as a limited set of housing services for people who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses. The PATH program provides these services through formula grants of at least \$300,000 to each State, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and \$50,000 to eligible U.S. territories.

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Persons Served
2003	\$41.3 million	77,384

## PATH Clients

According to information provided by the States, for those clients for whom demographic data were available:

### Age:

- ◆ 32% were adults ages 18-34
- ◆ 47% were adults ages 35-49
- ◆ 17% were adults ages 50-64

### Race/Ethnicity

- ◆ 55% of clients were White
- ◆ 32% were African-American
- ◆ 4% were of other races
- ◆ 9% of clients were of Hispanic origin

### Gender:

- ◆ 61% of clients were male
- ◆ 39% of clients were female

At the time of first contact with providers supported by the PATH program:

- ◆ 65% of clients served lived on the street or in emergency shelters
- ◆ 21% lived in private/subsidized housing
- ◆ 14% of clients lived in institutions, jails, residential treatment programs, or other settings

Many of the clients served had been homeless for considerable periods of time. During their most recent episode of homelessness:

- ◆ 47% had been homeless for up to 30 days
- ◆ 24% had been homeless for 31 – 90 days
- ◆ 15% had been homeless for 91 days – 1 year
- ◆ 14% had been homeless for more than 1 year

Persons receiving PATH-funded services have some of the most disabling mental disorders. Among clients for whom a diagnosis was made:

- ◆ 39% of clients had schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders
- ◆ 42% had affective disorders such as depression
- ◆ 19% had personality disorders or other mental disorders
- ◆ 58% of persons served had a co-occurring substance use disorder in addition to a serious mental illness

## **What Services Are Offered?**

- ◆ 87% of all providers perform outreach to persons who are homeless
- ◆ 78% of providers offer case management services
- ◆ 77% of providers use PATH funds to assist clients in accessing primary health care services, job training, education services, and housing
- ◆ Additional services provided include community mental health services, supportive and supervisory services in residential settings, and substance abuse services

## **Who Are the Providers of PATH-Supported Services?**

- ◆ 432 local organizations provide services to persons who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses
- ◆ 59% of these providers are community mental health centers; other types of providers include social service agencies, health care providers, and housing providers
- ◆ Close to 1,900 persons are engaged in the provision of PATH-supported services to clients who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses

## **What Is the Role of State Mental Health Authorities in Administering the PATH Program?**

- ◆ States are required to match each three dollars in Federal funds with at least one dollar of State or local funds. In FY 2003, States well exceeded the minimum level of matching funds, providing over \$30.3 million in funds to match the \$41.3 million Federal appropriation.
- ◆ The States select PATH providers, based on their assessment of mental health needs among persons who are homeless, and oversee providers' use of PATH funds.
- ◆ States use PATH funds to provide training and technical assistance to local service providers.

**For more information on the PATH program, please contact:**  
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